

real magnificence of which we can thus in some degree apprehend. If we seek to know the dimensions, not of the individual stars, but of the cluster itself, we are met with many difficulties, but, on the assumption that it is approximately spherical in shape, we can calculate its diameter to be over 40,000,000,000 miles. If we think of the dimensions of our solar system by themselves or in relation to terrestrial matter they appear stupendously enormous. Neptune, the most distant known member, has an orbit over 5,000,000,000 miles across, but the solar system is to the Pleiades but a Lilliputian to a Brobdingnagian—is but a microbe to a mountain—for a sphere the size of the solar system would, if it were spherical and its diameter that of the orbit of Neptune, be relatively so minute that it could be contained more than 400,000,000,000 times in a sphere the size of the Pleiades; in other words, the limits of the Pleiades could contain 150 solar systems as many times over as there are miles between Neptune and the sun. It must not be forgotten that though there are 2,300 stars in the cluster, yet with such dimensions for the entire group vast distances must separate the stars from one another. In fact, 2,300 spheres, each with a diameter of 3,000,000,000 miles, could be contained in the limits assigned to the group, and assuming equal distribution of the stars in the group, each would be at the center of a sphere 3,000,000,000 miles across, and therefore a light journey of 187 days from its nearest neighbor.

#### MONOCLES IN EUROPE.

**Believed to Have Originated in the British Army—Favored by Continental Officers.**

In every capital of Europe the monocle is common enough, says the New York World. It attracts no attention on the street. In a row of men at a theater a considerable proportion are sure to have it. Perhaps half the officers in the German army wear monocles. They are seen in abundance at any meeting of the French academy. Even socialist deputies in France are not ashamed to go among their constituents wearing them. A session of the English house of commons glitters with solitary eyeglasses. The single eyeglass is said to have originated among the officers of the British army. About the beginning of the century an order was issued that army officers should not wear eyeglasses or spectacles. It was supposed that they gave the wearers an un military appearance. The order caused severe inconvenience to many short-sighted officers, and one of them belonging to a crack regiment invented the single eyeglass; its use was no contravention of the order which prohibited spectacles and eyeglasses. It soon became very popular in the army and was afterward adopted. On account probably of this origin the single eyeglass is very generally worn in Europe by army officers. It is by some thought to give an aspect of determination and ferocity to the wearer, whereas eyeglasses lend an air of feebleness.

#### DOCTORED CHEESE.

**It Was Fixed Up After the Fashion of Fraudulent Gold Tricks.**

The "found spectacle" trick is a pretty old one, but is worked every day of the year, says the New York Herald. I was talking with an egg and butter merchant a short time ago when a tough-looking citizen jumped off of a passing truck and rushed in with a pair of gold spectacles, or what appeared to be, in his hand, and glibly said:

"Gents, here's a pair of spectacles I've picked up—use glasses? What'll you give me fur 'em? Can have 'em cheap. I don't use specs, and I'm in an awful hurry—quick!"

"What do you ask for them?" inquired a bystander, looking at the pair. "They look like gold, man."

"Maybe they are," says the man, hastily snatching them away, as if he had suddenly conceived the idea. "Anyhow," says he, "they ought to be worth a dollar and a half—I'll give 'em to you for fifty cents, say."

He passed them to me. I saw at once they were the commonest kind of ordinary glass in a brass frame.

"They are worth just one dollar a dozen," said I.

And the man looked daggers at me, but sneaked out without a word. This is an old trick, played usually in a crowded street.

"That's nothing," said the egg and butter man, laughing. "to the trick played on me some time ago. Two men stopped in front of my store with a light delivery wagon, and one of the men rushed in and called me by name. asked me how business was, and so on."

"I didn't recognize the man, and looking out of the window to get some clew to him from the wagon, just caught a glimpse of the latter being slowly driven up street. Still I supposed it was some fellow I had had business dealings with."

"Look here," says he, "I've got a couple of fine cheeses in my wagon—two more than our list calls for delivery. Now, don't say anything, but you can get them dog cheap."

"I told him I didn't do that kind of business. But he says: 'All right—your neighbors will.' And I knew they would, too, and I says: 'Hold on.' And he came back. 'Bring 'em in,' says I, 'and I'll see.' He brought 'em in."

"They looked all right and weighed all right, and ought to have been worth eight dollars each. I took one and gave him four dollars. Without my asking it, he had thrust in his knife and twisted it around and brought out the center of the cheese, and it was sound and good."

"But the man was in such a hurry, and the more I thought of it the more singular it looked. And I guess my conscience pricked me a little, for I began to think it was the same as buying stolen goods. Still, I wanted a good cheese."

"I sent out for a tester and thrust it through the cheese and brought out—well, the worst stuff you ever saw! It wasn't worth anything! Then I saw that this thing had been plugged and

the center filled with good cheese so nicely you couldn't see it unless you were looking for it. It was the regular gold brick game."

#### A Great Fortune.

The huge fortune of the late Mr. Hugh McCalmont, which for seven years has been accumulating at compound interest, will pass into the sole control of the heir, Mr. Harry Leslie Blundell McCalmont, the well-known owner of Isinglass. The amount is believed to be not much, if at all, less than four million pounds sterling, and the bulk of this enormous sum was accumulated by the testator while a member of the once prominent firm of McCalmont Brothers. Rumor has it that the amount to which Mr. McCalmont will succeed exceeds that at the absolute disposal of any other single person in this country, and this is not improbable. Of course larger amounts are owned by some of the great city magnates, but probably in most cases their wealth is not entirely unfettered; it is either subject to heavy charges, or else is invested in business from which it could not be easily disengaged. The largest amount of personality recorded in recent years was that of Baron de Stern, which amounted, we believe, to some seven million pounds sterling, acquired largely through Portuguese finance operations.

#### Modern Andalus'a.

Mr. Carl Luffmann, the well-known Australian agricultural expert, who has been for some months studying viticulture and fruit growing round about Malaga, gives a highly favorable account of that part of Spain as a field for emigration, in the London Daily News. With the importation there of industrious men, capital and modern appliances there is every natural condition, he thinks, favorable to a speedy and profitable return. In fact, according to this authority, there is no country in Europe which presents advantages equal to those of Australia. At the same time he points out that Spain offers the advantage of being in Europe, and therefore close at home, while it has local attractions of such an old world character as delight the most conservative. From a health point of view, moreover, the climate is unrivaled, a circumstance which tells strongly in favor of happiness. In Spain there are no bad seasons, no drudgery, no hard competition, no dearth of sunshine. The country, Mr. Luffmann declares, is open to receive and benefit every class of emigrant.

#### How We Get Canadian Coins.

Post office regulations against accepting foreign coins are disregarded along the Canadian border, where the Canadian twenty-five-cent piece has a wide and free circulation on this side the line and is accepted without hesitation by postmasters. They accept even Canadian bank notes, and there seems to prevail a thorough international comity as to money. Postmasters and merchants are astonished when visitors from regions further south hesitate at accepting Canadian money in change.